



## ALIGNMENT CHART:

### Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies Alignment with Second Step SEL

## Early Learning-Grade 8

This alignment chart illustrates how the Second Step program and Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies complement and support each other across key social-emotional concepts.

## About the Second Step Program

Evidence-based Second Step is the premier SEL program in the United States, reaching more than 15 million school children every year. The universal, classroom-based program promotes development of students' social-emotional competence and self-regulation skills. Students with these skills are better able to maintain healthy relationships with peers and adults and have more coping strategies to manage stressful situations. They're also more likely to benefit from academic instruction.

## The Importance of Social-Emotional Learning

Social-emotional learning (SEL) is recognized as a key ingredient for school and life success. A 2011 meta-analysis found that students participating in SEL programs showed significant gains in social-emotional skills, attitudes, and behaviors, as well as academic achievement.

Specific gains include:

- 11 percentile-point gain in overall academic achievement
- 23 percent improvement in social-emotional skills
- 9 percent improvement in attitudes about self, others, and school
- 9 percent improvement in school and classroom behavior
- 9 percent decrease in conduct problems, such as classroom behavior and aggression

Educators across the nation acknowledge the benefits of SEL in schools and agree that teaching students social-emotional skills is a necessary and valuable component of their education.

## Second Step Key Concepts

- Skills for Learning
- Empathy
- Emotion Management
- Problem Solving

## Core Learning Strategies

- Brain Builders
- Story and Discussion
- Activity/Skill Practice
- Reinforcing Skills

Teaching the social-emotional and self-regulation skills in the Second Step program need not be confined to the lessons! Students can practice their Second Step skills while learning about literature, math, science, health, and more. In fact, while applying their Second Step skills to academics, students can also boost their academic achievement!

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## Alignment with Second Step SEL for Early Learning

Key Concepts		Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies									
Skills for Learning	Focus Attention	✓			✓						✓
	Listen with Attention										
	Use Self-Talk			✓							
	Be Assertive							✓	✓	✓	✓
	Remember Directions								✓	✓	✓
	Stay on Task									✓	✓
	Ignore Distractions			✓						✓	✓
Empathy	Identify and Understand Their Own, Others' Feelings	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Build a Vocabulary of Feelings Words	✓	✓				✓				
	Begin to Take Others' Perspectives				✓	✓	✓				
	Listen to Others				✓	✓	✓				
	Have Empathy	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Express Compassion				✓	✓	✓				✓
Emotion Management	Understand Strong Feelings	✓									
	Recognize Strong Feelings	✓									
	Calm Strong Feelings Down				✓						
	Use the Calming-Down Steps			✓	✓						
	Build Communication/Language Skills	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		
Problem Solving	Calm Down Before Solving Problems				✓						
	Describe the Problem										
	Think of Multiple Solutions to a Problem										
Friendship Skills	Play Fair					✓					
	Invite Others to Play										
	Ask to Join in Play										
	Choose to Have Fun over Getting Their Way										
Executive Function Skills	Flexible Attention				✓						
	Working Memory				✓	✓					
	Inhibitory Control				✓						

Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies (cont.)											
III.1. Learners will be able to demonstrate awareness of own emotions and how they may be the same or different from others. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.1</b>											
III.2. Learners will be able to use verbal and nonverbal language to demonstrate a variety of emotions. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.1</b>											
III.3. Learners will be able to display age-appropriate self-control. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.1</b>											
III.4. Learners will be able to attend for longer periods of time and show preference for some activities. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.1</b>											
III.5. Learners will be able to recognize the feelings of another child and respond with basic comfort and empathy. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.2</b>											
III.6. Learners will be able to associate words and gestures with a variety of emotions expressed by others. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.2</b>											
III.7. Learners will be able to exhibit positive self-concept and confidence in their abilities. <b>WMELS Domain II B EL.1</b>											
III.8. Learners will be able to recognize and share independent thoughts. <b>WMELS Domain II B EL.1</b>											
III.9. Learners will be able to show awareness of being part of family and a larger community. <b>WMELS Domain IV A EL.1</b>											
III.10. Learners will be able to display curiosity, risk-taking, and willingness to engage in new experiences. <b>WMELS Domain IV A EL.1</b>											
III.11. Learners will be able to engage in meaningful learning through attempting, repeating, and experimenting with a variety of experiences and activities. <b>WMELS Domain IV A EL.2</b>			✓								
III.12. Learners will be able to demonstrate awareness of self as a unique individual. <b>WMELS Domain IV B EL.2</b>			✓								
III.13. Learners will be able to reflect their family, culture, and community when engaged in play and learning. <b>WMELS Domain IV C EL.2</b>			✓								
III.14. Learners will be able to begin to notice that other children and families do things differently. <b>WMELS Domain III B EL.2C</b>			✓								
III.15. Learners will be able to engage in healthy and rewarding social interactions and play with peers. <b>WMELS Domain II C EL.2</b>			✓								
III.16. Learners will be able to initiate conversations, listen attentively, respond to conversation, and stay on topic for multiple exchanges (especially with adults). <b>WMELS Domain III B EL.2C</b>			✓								
III.17. Learners will be able to adapt behavior based on adult directives.			✓								
III.18. Learners will be able to participate in cooperative play with peers. <b>WMELS Domain II C EL.2</b>			✓								
III.19. Learners will be able to identify and communicate needs in conflict situations. <b>WMELS Domain II C EL.4</b>			✓								
III.20. Learners will be able to, with adult support, recognize that they have choices in how to respond to situations.			✓								
III.21. Learners will be able to follow simple group rules. <b>WMELS Domain II C EL.3</b>			✓								
III.22. Learners will be able to demonstrate understanding of simple rules related primarily to personal health and safety. <b>WMELS Domain II C EL.3</b>			✓								
III.23. Learners will be able to attempt a new skill when encouraged and supported by a safe and secure environment. <b>WMELS Domain II C EL.2</b>			✓								
III.24. Learners will be able to show awareness of being part of a family and a larger community. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.2</b>			✓								



## Alignment with Second Step SEL for Kindergarten

Key Concepts		Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies									
Skills for Learning	Focus Attention	✓									
	Listen with Attention	✓									
	Use Self-Talk										
	Be Assertive			✓		✓					
	Remember Directions										
	Stay on Task										
	Ignore Distractions									✓	
Empathy	Identify and Understand Their Own, Others' Feelings	✓	✓								
	Build a Vocabulary of Feelings Words	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Begin to Take Others' Perspectives	✓	✓	✓							
	Listen to Others	✓	✓	✓							
	Have Empathy	✓	✓								
	Express Compassion	✓									✓
Emotion Management	Understand Strong Feelings			✓							
	Recognize Strong Feelings		✓	✓	✓	✓					
	Calm Strong Feelings Down		✓	✓	✓						
	Use the Ways to Calm Down		✓	✓	✓						
	Build Communication/Language Skills		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Problem Solving	Calm Down Before Solving Problems			✓	✓						
	Describe the Problem					✓					
	Think of Multiple Solutions to a Problem					✓					
	Explore Consequences of Solutions to Problems					✓					
	Pick the Best Solution to a Problem					✓					
	Develop Friendship Skills					✓					
Executive-Function Skills	Flexible Attention										✓
	Working Memory										✓
	Inhibitory Control		✓	✓							✓

Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies (cont.)											
II.1. Learners will be able to demonstrate awareness of own emotions and how they may be the same or different from others. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.1</b>											
II.2. Learners will be able to use verbal and nonverbal language to demonstrate a variety of emotions. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.1</b>											
II.3. Learners will be able to display age-appropriate self-control. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.1</b>											
II.4. Learners will be able to attend for longer periods of time and show preference for some activities. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.1</b>											
II.5. Learners will be able to recognize the feelings of another child and respond with basic comfort and empathy. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.2</b>											
II.6. Learners will be able to associate words and gestures with a variety of emotions expressed by others. <b>WMELS Domain II A EL.2</b>											
II.7. Learners will be able to exhibit positive self-concept and confidence in their abilities. <b>WMELS Domain II B EL.1</b>											
II.8. Learners will be able to recognize and share independent thoughts. <b>WMELS Domain II B EL.1</b>											
II.9. Learners will be able to show awareness of being part of family and a larger community. <b>WMELS Domain IV A. EL1</b>											
II.10. Learners will be able to display curiosity, risk-taking, and willingness to engage in new experiences. <b>WMELS Domain IV A. EL1</b>											
II.11. Learners will be able to engage in meaningful learning through attempting, repeating, and experimenting with a variety of experiences and activities. <b>WMELS Domain IV A EL 2</b>											
II.12. Learners will be able to demonstrate awareness of self as a unique individual. <b>WMELS Domain IV B EL 2</b>											
II.13. Learners will be able to reflect their family, culture, and community when engaged in play and learning. <b>WMELS Domain IV C EL 2</b>											
II.14. Learners will be able to begin to notice that other children and families do things differently. <b>WMELS Domain III B EL.2C</b>											
II.15. Learners will be able to engage in healthy and rewarding social interactions and play with peers. <b>WMELS Domain II C EL.2</b>											
II.16. Learners will be able to initiate conversations, listen attentively, respond to conversation, and stay on topic for multiple exchanges (especially with adults). <b>WMELS Domain III B EL.2C</b>											
II.17. Learners will be able to adapt behavior based on adult directives.											
II.18. Learners will be able to participate in cooperative play with peers. <b>WMELS Domain II C EL.2</b>											
II.19. Learners will be able to identify and communicate needs in conflict situations. <b>WMELS Domain II C EL.4</b>											
II.20. Learners will be able to, with adult support, recognize that they have choices in how to respond to situations.											
II.21. Learners will be able to follow simple group rules. <b>WMELS Domain II C EL.3</b>											✓
II.22. Learners will be able to demonstrate understanding of simple rules related primarily to personal health and safety. <b>WMELS Domain II C EL.3</b>											✓
II.23. Learners will be able to attempt a new skill when encouraged and supported by a safe and secure environment. <b>WMELS Domain IV A EL.2</b>											✓
II.24. Learners will be able to show awareness of being part of a family and a larger community. <b>WMELS Domain IV A EL.2</b>											✓



## Alignment with Second Step SEL for Grades 1-3

Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies							Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies (cont.)																		
Key Concepts																									
Skills for Learning	Focus Attention	✓					I.1. Learners will be able to recognize and label a variety of their own emotions							II.7. Learners will be able to identify and describe skills and/or activities they do well and those with which they need help							III.16. Learners will be able to describe in simple terms how words, tone, and body language are used to communicate with others				
	Listen with Attention	✓					I.2. Learners will be able to use verbal and nonverbal language to demonstrate a variety of increasingly complex emotions							II.11. Learners will be able to identify the different relationships they have with others							III.17. Learners will be able to demonstrate listening skills; start and stop conversations, and take turns in conversations				
	Use Self-Talk						I.3. Learners will be able to, with adult support, demonstrate a variety of strategies to manage strong emotions							II.12. Learners will be able to present their own points of view							III.18. Learners will be able to demonstrate positive behaviors as established in the classroom expectations				
	Be Assertive			✓			I.4. Learners will begin to be able to, with adult support, focus their attention by tolerating distractions							II.13. Learners will be able to identify commonalities they share with peers							III.19. Learners will be able to understand the perspective of others in a conflict situation				
	Remember Directions						I.5. Learners will be able to, with adult support, identify how others are feeling based on their verbal and nonverbal cues and respond with compassion							II.14. Learners will be able to recognize and respect that individual differences are important to own self and others							III.20. Learners will be able to, with adult support, adapt possible choices and actions they could take in a given situation, including positive and negative options				
	Stay on Task						I.6. Learners will be able to predict how someone else may feel in a variety of situations							II.15. Learners will be able to identify the different relationships they have with others							III.21. Learners will be able to demonstrate positive behaviors as established in the classroom expectations				
	Ignore Distractions				✓		I.7. Learners will be able to identify and explore their own beliefs							II.16. Learners will be able to describe in simple terms how words, tone, and body language are used to communicate with others							III.22. Learners will be able to describe ways to promote personal safety				
Empathy	Identify and Understand Their Own, Others' Feelings	✓	✓	✓	✓		I.8. Learners will be able to identify and explore their own beliefs							II.17. Learners will be able to demonstrate listening skills; start and stop conversations, and take turns in conversations							III.23. Learners will be able to identify how to get help from a trusted adult in a variety of situations				
	Build a Vocabulary of Feelings Words	✓	✓	✓	✓		I.9. Learners will be able to define the role family and culture play in their identity and beliefs							II.18. Learners will be able to demonstrate positive behaviors as established in the classroom expectations							III.24. Learners will be able to identify classroom, school, and/or community needs				
	Begin to Take Others' Perspectives	✓	✓	✓	✓		I.10. Learners will be able to identify simple goals for personal and academic success							II.19. Learners will be able to understand the perspective of others in a conflict situation							III.25. Learners will be able to identify how to get help from a trusted adult in a variety of situations				
	Listen to Others	✓	✓	✓	✓									II.20. Learners will be able to, with adult support, adapt possible choices and actions they could take in a given situation, including positive and negative options							III.26. Learners will be able to identify classroom, school, and/or community needs				
	Have Empathy	✓	✓	✓										II.21. Learners will be able to demonstrate positive behaviors as established in the classroom expectations							III.27. Learners will be able to identify how to get help from a trusted adult in a variety of situations				
	Express Compassion	✓												II.22. Learners will be able to describe ways to promote personal safety							III.28. Learners will be able to identify classroom, school, and/or community needs				
Emotion Management	Understand Strong Feelings			✓																					
	Recognize Strong Feelings		✓		✓																				
	Calm Strong Feelings Down			✓	✓																				
	Use the Ways to Calm Down				✓																				
	Build Communication/Language Skills				✓																				
Problem Solving	Calm Down Before Solving Problems					✓																			
	Describe the Problem																								
	Think of Multiple Solutions to a Problem																								
	Explore Consequences of Solutions to Problems																								
	Pick the Best Solution to a Problem																								
	Develop Friendship Skills																								
Executive-Function Skills	Flexible Attention																								
	Working Memory																								
	Inhibitory Control			✓																					



## Alignment with Second Step SEL for Grades 4-5

Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies										Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies (cont.)									
Key Concepts																			
Empathy and Skills for Learning	Identify and Understand Their Own, Others' Feelings	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Take Others' Perspectives	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓									
	Listen with Attention	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓									
	Assertiveness Skills			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓									
	Friendship Skills	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓									
	Empathy Skills	✓						✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						
	Express Compassion	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						
Emotion Management	Recognize How Strong Feelings Affect Brain and Body			✓	✓	✓	✓												
	Focus Attention			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
	Calm Strong Feelings Down Using Steps		✓	✓	✓														
	Use Calming-Down Strategies		✓	✓	✓														
	Manage Strong Feelings		✓	✓	✓														
	Practice Assertive Communication Skills		✓	✓	✓														
	Use Positive Self-Talk			✓	✓	✓	✓						✓						
Problem Solving	Calm Down Before Solving Problems		✓		✓														
	State a Problem Using Non-Blaming Language				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						
	Think of Multiple Solutions to a Problem				✓							✓	✓						
	Explore Consequences of Solutions to Problems				✓							✓	✓						
	Pick the Best Solution to a Problem				✓							✓	✓						
	Make a Plan											✓	✓						
	Apply Problem-Solving Steps to Age-Typical Problems						✓					✓	✓						



## Alignment with Second Step SEL for Grades 6–8

Key Concepts		Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies										Wisconsin Social-Emotional Learning Competencies (cont.)											
Second Step: Key Concepts	Growth Mindset: Your Brain Can Grow and Change																						
	Setting and Achieving Goals																						
	Planning Ahead for Difficult Situations																						
	Identifying Personal Values																						
	Using Personal Values to Make Good Decisions																						
	Making Friends and Strengthening Friendships																						
	Recognizing Negative Relationships																						
	The Role of Emotions																						
	Handling Unhelpful Thoughts and Strong Emotions																						
	Calmng-Down Strategies																						
	Recognizing Different Perspectives																						
	Recognizing and Avoiding Serious Conflicts																						
	Resolving Serious Conflicts																						
	Repairing Relationships																						
	Helping Prevent Bullying and Harassment																						



Second Step, a program rooted in social-emotional learning (SEL), helps transform schools into supportive, successful learning environments uniquely equipped to encourage children to thrive.

By developing Second Step's research-based SEL curriculum for Preschool through Grade 8 in combination with our Bullying Prevention and Child Protection Units, we've formed an integrated, comprehensive program that makes a difference. It's a difference you can feel the moment you open the doors to a Second Step school—a sense of safety and respect grounded in the social-emotional health and well-being of the entire school community.

Learn more at [SecondStep.org](http://SecondStep.org) or call us at 800-634-4449, ext. 1.